

**From:** jda  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft settlement

I am writing to express my profound disagreement with the settlement of the Microsoft monopoly case proposed by the US government. The proposed remedy has little teeth, and the "penalty" is actually a prescription for extending the monopoly into the sphere of education.

The proposal put forward by the dissenting States is better. In particular, Microsoft must be obliged to provide its de facto monopoly software (Office) on other (non-Windows) platforms, in particular the MacOS and Linux. Furthermore, if Microsoft is to donate resources to poor schools, it should be in the form of cash, not refurbished (obsolete) computers and their own software -- these will inevitably have the paradoxical effect of furthering Microsoft's presence one of the few arenas in which it does not already enjoy a monopoly. If the reimbursement was only in the form of money, Microsoft would have to compete on an equal footing with other platforms/vendors who provide technology for the classroom. That is, they will have to earn their way in (like the other vendors) without an unfair advantage.

The proposal, as it stands, is an obvious and cynical maneuver by Microsoft to further its monopoly status at little actual cost to itself. It should be soundly rejected.

Jonathan Ashwell  
8903 Seneca Lane  
Bethesda, MD 20817